

## **ISST Forum Conference Call Summary**

### **March 4, 2004**

#### **Roll call:**

ER: ERH, Morehead City, Greenville-Spartanburg, Taunton, Charleston, Mt. Holly, Pittsburgh, Albany

SR: SRH, Jacksonville, Morristown, Mobile

CR: CRH, Dodge City

WR: WRH, Flagstaff, Reno, Monterey, Portland, Salt Lake City, Spokane

AR: Fairbanks

PR: PRH

NCEP: SPC, NCEP HQ

FSL: IFPS Training Team

OCWWS Training Division: COMET

NWSHQ: OST/SEC, OCIO, OCWWS IFPS Training Team

**Background slides** – Brad Colman reviewed the slides and asked that comments/questions/discussions be taken after the review.

#### **Open discussion** –

One of the main topics of discussion was the Downscaled GFS with Eta eXtension (DGEX). More information on DGEX is at:

[http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ost/ifps\\_sst/DGEX.html](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ost/ifps_sst/DGEX.html)

One point noted is that the DGEX will always run off initial conditions from the previous GFS. So, during the evaluation period (15 March to 15 April) the 0Z DGEX will use the 18Z GFS for boundary conditions. There was some question about how DGEX will be incorporated into the forecast process. All felt it would be a learning process. There was also general consensus that the DGEX was a good first step in attempting to address the downscaling of NWP to GFE grid resolutions.

Another topic raised was the Analysis of Record (AoR). The question was raised if the AoR effort would make the MDL gridded verification effort obsolete. It will not, since MDL would use the AoR in their existing gridded verification framework. An AoR summit is being planned in coordination with the USWRP. It will likely be held in June 2004. All agreed that a broad audience is needed (to include NESDIS and NOHRSC).

The topic of the new Eta12 surface parameters was discussed. Tim Barker (SOO BOI) has developed techniques to take advantage of the high-resolution surface fields by combining them with lower-resolution upper level fields. Many agreed that what is really needed is better vertical resolution. This is partially addressed by DGEX and the upcoming inclusion of full Eta12 support in the OB3.2 timeframe. The ISST has a webpage describing some of the upcoming model data changes at:

[http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ost/ifps\\_sst/model\\_SBN.html](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ost/ifps_sst/model_SBN.html)

The inclusion of ensemble data on AWIPS was discussed. There is a desire to get some probabilistic information available to use in GFE. Some expressed the desire to have the MREF at longer ranges instead of the current shorter ranges. Data now on AWIPS is just graphics. There are no plans to get true gridded ensemble data into AWIPS. This is an issue that should come up through the AWIPS SREC process.

There was discussion about making improvements to the GFE. Initial climatology grids generated by NCDC will be available in IFPS 16. Many stated the need for conditional climatologies, in addition to monthly climatologies. It was also noted that satellite data is included in RPP22, but that much more work was needed to make satellite data truly useful in the GFE.

The final major topic discussed was the plan that HPC is proposing to produce high-resolution grids in the medium range. HPC has briefed SSD chiefs and received mixed reviews. There was consensus that the ISST should track this effort and that HPC needs to coordinate this effort with NWSHQ. This also brought up the topic of how HPC is to coordinate with WFOs and RFCs. This is likely something that will need to be addressed by the new Digital Services Project Office (DSPO).